

## **Part 18: "NOW WE TAKE POSSESSION!"**

### **Part 3: "Strategies for Possessing Your Mountain"**

#### **Text:**

**Joshua 14:11-12 (NKJV)** - "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. [12] Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

- A. This is the third part of the series, "Strategies for Possessing Your Mountain."
1. The term "possessing your mountain" is about possessing your dream. Caleb held on to the word God had given him 45 years earlier. When God gives you a Word, don't allow the enemy to take away His promise.
  2. Caleb dreamed of possessing the mountain he and Joshua had visited as spies many years earlier.
  3. All of us dream of things we know should be our own. Whether it's a fulfilled marriage, a Kingdom business, for your children to be saved and prosper, a ministry, healing, or anything you believe God will do.
  4. People often think a message about dreams will be materialistic. Actually, God wants you to be blessed and to prosper in every area

of life where your priorities are correct. Having wrong priorities can cause you to neglect your family, your relationship with God, and other things that really matter.

5. Joke: "Materialism"

Boudreaux had become so successful, he parked his brand new Lexus in front of the office for his colleagues to see. But as he got out of the car, a truck drove too close to the curb and completely tore off the driver's door. Fortunately, a police officer was close enough to see the accident and parked behind the Lexus with lights flashing.

But before the policeman could ask a question, Boudreaux started screaming hysterically about the totally ruined Lexus he had purchased the day before that the body shop could not possibly restore.

After Boudreaux finally cooled down from his ranting, the cop shook his head in disbelief. "Sir, you are being way too materialistic," he said. "You are so focused on your possessions, you're neglecting the most important things in life."

"How can you say such a thing?" screamed Boudreaux.

The cop replied, "Sir, don't you realize that your left arm is missing? It got ripped off when the truck hit you!"

"Oh, NO!" screamed Boudreaux. "MY ROLEX!!!"

## **"Making the Mountain Yours"**

B. Mountains represent the challenges and obstacles we encounter on the journey to our destiny.

1. Giants lived on the mountain Caleb wanted to conquer. Since giants always accompany our dreams, it may take years for some people to conquer their mountain.
2. Ever since Mount Everest was first discovered by western mountain climbers in 1885, men have dreamed of scaling its 29,029 feet. Numerous expeditions have attempted this grueling, Herculean task. Tragically, the tallest mountain in the world is littered with bodies of those who tried and failed. They died from the cold, avalanches, falls, or being blown off the mountain by storms and hurricane force winds.
3. If you have never read the harrowing accounts of climbers who were caught in sudden storms, you should do so. It will keep you on the edge of your seat. It wasn't until 1953 that Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first to successfully reach the summit of Mount Everest.
4. The first requirement for conquering and owning your mountain is to obtain new information.

C. Because of Caleb's faithfulness, God not only promised him the mountain, but every place his feet would carry him.

1. It is important to note that even though God gives you a promise, ***you still have to go after it!*** One of the biggest mistakes believers make is to think if they sit and wait long enough, God's promises will eventually come and find them.
2. As some of our business owners will affirm, you will get it, when you go get it! Your promise will not come to you—you'll have to go after it! That's true of education, a career, ministry or a godly home. You won't own it until you capture it. Rather than waiting for

your mountain to come find you, develop and implement a strategy to obtain what heaven has promised you.

D. Here are some strategic steps to become a conqueror:

1. **Identify your mountain.** Caleb selected the mountain that would become his own.

- a. **Joshua 14:12 (NKJV)** - "Now therefore, give me THIS mountain."
- b. He knew it would be Mount Hebron, even though it was inhabited by giants.
- c. What is your mountain? It could be a godly family, a thriving, successful business, an impacting, life-changing ministry, or a fulfilled, satisfying marriage. Or maybe it's enough finances to live comfortably instead of struggling to exist. Perhaps it's a good education, or just to be healthy and lose those unwanted extra pounds.
- d. While your mountain may seem obvious to others, it's astonishing how many people overlook this principle of identification. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, two blind men cried, "Jesus, have mercy on us!"
- e. **Matthew 20:32 (NKJV)** - "So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"
- f. Really? Wasn't it obvious? Of course it was; they were blind! But that wasn't the point. Jesus wanted them to identify their mountain. He delights in answering specific prayers—not general ones.
- g. When I came to Houston as a young man over 31 years ago, my mountain was to build a church, with God's help, that

would impact our community. But I also wanted spiritual sons and daughters who would plant churches around the world. At the time, that seemed impossible. But God made a way for *both* to happen.

While His blessings remained upon our church here in Houston, I was asked to preach a meeting in India. A doctor from our congregation traveled with me. Sitting beside us on the plane, an Asian gentleman asked what we planned to do in India. When we told him, he broke into a huge smile and introduced himself as Kildari Anand Paul, (better known as the Asian 'Billy Graham'). Before the flight ended, he invited us to a crusade he was preaching in Tanzania—which is in Africa! Leading ministers of the churches in Tanzania wanted me to establish a Bible College to train their ministers and workers.

The rest is history. We have now graduated 3,250 students from that first school in Africa. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have built six other Bible schools in India that have also exploded!

## **2. Stop avoiding your mountain.**

- a. Don't delay. Do what you know to do. Ask yourself why you're hesitating. Is it a fear of failure? ... a fear of embarrassment that you won't succeed?
- b. You become fearful when circumstances come between you and God. Faith is allowing God to come between you and your circumstances!

- c. "On the plains of hesitation lie the blackened bones of countless millions who at the dawn of victory lay down to rest, and in resting died." Adlai Stevenson

### 3. **Be all in! Wholly follow the Lord!**

- a. Make up your mind—and do not vacillate. Listen to what Joshua told Caleb:
- b. **Joshua 14:9 (NKJV)** - "Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have **wholly followed** the LORD my God."
- c. I will never forget what God whispered years ago when I was confronted by a challenge that seemed bigger than I could handle. He said, "If you will just go, it's impossible for you to fail. You will be a success even if nothing happens—because you obeyed when I said, "Go."
- d. Success is determined by your obedience, not your achievements.

### 4. **Determine which giants are standing between you and your mountain.**

- a. Caleb knew he would soon face the sons of Anak. Identify the obstacles that will oppose you.
- b. The giants aren't always who you think they are. They could be giants of pride, self, ego, impatience or a lack of self control. Like the sons of Anak, they can keep you from possessing your mountain!
- c. To have the marriage God intended, you may need to defeat the giant that's trying to keep you from speaking the same language as your spouse—from his/her perspective.

**5. Identify which strengths and resources are necessary to conquer your mountain.**

- a. **Luke 14:28-31 (NKJV)** - "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—[29] lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? [31] Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?"
- b. You may need to finish a college degree or just fill your mind, so you can fulfill your purpose. Perhaps you should build a stronger team—or a prayer team. Determine which resources you will need.
- c. Whether it's in business, education, ministry or some other challenge, consider the **WAYS, MEANS,** and **MEASURES.** For instance, if your mountain is to have a godly family and a stronger relationship with God, how can you accomplish this?  
**"WAYS"** could be a daily family devotion; prayer; worship; Bible reading; or listening to the Word as you drive to work in the morning.  
**"MEANS"** could be allocating the time each morning to pray, listening to a Bible app as you drive to work, a plan to read the complete Bible in a year, a daily devotional—similar to the Purpose Driven Life Devotional on the Internet, or countless others in a Christian bookstore.

**“MEASURES”** could be the number of chapters you’ll read each day. How much time will you pray? Will you have a family devotional together? Will you go to church on Sunday or attend the Wednesday night Bible Study? Will the kids go to the youth service?

**6. Develop specific strategies to deal with every giant that stands between you and your mountain.**

- a. If your giant is poverty, ask yourself how to defeat it. Instead of buying more stuff on credit that you don’t need, your strategy will probably involve becoming debt free—or saving enough money to invest in something that will grow. If your giant is limited resources, that seed will also have to be developed.
- b. **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)** - “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”
- c. In this verse, the meaning of “power” is: the power to get wealth. In other words, God gives us wealth to get wealth; it’s the seed of what we want to grow. So, if He gives us the seed to get wealth, we can’t spend everything we earn and expect to become wealthy!
- d. Few believers realize that tithing is one of the greatest strategies for defeating the spirit of poverty. **Tithing isn’t about you funding the church; it’s about God funding YOU!**
- e. “God owns all the doughnuts”:

While waiting in the airport for his flight, a man became hungry and decided to buy a cup of coffee and a little bag of doughnuts. All the tables were full except one and a man was sitting at one end of that table.

As many people do, and probably yourself, the man sat at the other end of the table. Lifting the lid of his coffee, he opened a newspaper and started sipping his coffee. Pulling the little pack of doughnuts close, he started eating one.

Suddenly, the other man reached for a doughnut, smiled and started eating it. The man who had just bought the doughnuts was shocked. How rude! He couldn't believe what was happening! He would have said something, but clearly the guy wasn't all there. Obviously, he was a few French fries short of a happy meal.

So he pulled the doughnuts closer, glared at the man and turned his chair away to demonstrate that he was clearly upset. He was mortified when the man actually stood, leaned across the table, took another doughnut, smiled again, and started eating it. The man who bought the doughnuts was furious. How dare this knucklehead? What a jerk!

Just then the other man got up, took his carry-on bag and walked to the gate. The man who bought the doughnuts said to himself, "Thank God. Now I can finish my doughnuts in peace."

When it was finally time to board the plane, he folded his paper, picked up his coat, reached for his briefcase, and there on top of his briefcase was the unopened package of doughnuts he had bought. He had been eating the other

man's doughnuts the whole time. So, he was the jerk; not the other guy.

- f. That's just like us. God asks for just one of the 10 doughnuts He bought, and we're thinking how unreasonable He is! Since God owns all of the doughnuts, all He asks is to give Him just one of the ten. It turns out, we're the jerk—not God. Then we wonder why we must struggle and can't seem to have a breakthrough!
- g. Tithing is not about you funding God's church; it's about God funding you!
- h. **Malachi 3:10 (NLT)** - "(YOU) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If YOU do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for YOU. I will pour out a blessing so great YOU won't have enough room to take it in! (YOU) Try it! (YOU) Put me to the test!"
- i. The word "You" is directly used three times and implied three other times. The clear message for us is: "**Test Me**" and see if I won't **open up Heaven** and pour out blessings **beyond your wildest dreams.**"
- j. Prayer and fasting are strategies that will help you defeat every giant that stands in your way. (More will be said about that later).

## 7. **Speak to your mountain!**

- a. You will need God's help to conquer your mountain. Jesus tells us how to activate God's promises and power: pray and speak the Word of God over your situation.

- b. **Mark 11:23 (NKJV)** - "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever **says** to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he **says** will be done, he will have whatever he **says**."
- c. **Psalms 103:20 (AMP)** - "Bless the Lord, you His angels, You mighty ones who do His commandments, Obeying the **voice** of His word!"
- d. Some of you know Phil Driscoll, who was voted the best trumpeter in the world, best musician of the year and has played his trumpet for four presidents. Phil told me that his son also plays this instrument. One day in his home, Phil was downstairs listening to his son play a CD Phil had recorded. After a while, the son's bedroom door opened as he shouted, "Hey dad, how did that sound?"
- Phil was surprised by the question and asked, "What do you mean? What am I supposed to say when you ask me how my own playing sounds?"
- His son answered, "No, dad, that wasn't you. It was me."
- He wasn't playing Phil's CD; his son was playing the trumpet solo. But, it sounded so much like Phil, he couldn't tell the difference.
- God wants you to sound so much like Him, your problems cannot tell the difference. It's time to release your 'God sound!'

E. On the platform today are many written dreams from members of this congregation.

1. They represent a mountain God has promised to each of us. We will close today by praying over them.
2. **The mountain is yours!**
  - a. God is so faithful. Just as Caleb's dream came true, He will answer your prayers and cause your dreams to become realities.
  - b. **Judges 1:20 (NIV)** - "As Moses had promised, Hebron was given to Caleb, who drove from it the three sons of Anak."
  - c. If we will wholly follow God, our dreams will also come true!
3. The giants were holding Caleb's mountain—that is, until he took possession and the mountain became his.
4. Like Caleb, you are going to drive out the giants that stand between you and your mountain!